



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC BUSINESS OWNER, NEPHEW SENTENCED FOR STEALING RECYCLABLES**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., business owner and his nephew, a shift manager at the victimized paper plant, were sentenced in federal court today for causing stolen recyclables to be transported across the state line.

**Samuel J. DeLeon**, 45, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to two years and 11 months in federal prison without parole. **Monico C. DeLeon**, 27, of Kansas City, was sentenced to two years and five months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered the defendants to pay \$350,000 in restitution, for which they are jointly and severally liable.

**Samuel DeLeon** is the owner of Eco-Mo Recycling and the former plant manager at Batliner Paper in Kansas City. His nephew, **Monico DeLeon**, was the night manager at Batliner Paper.

On March 1, 2004, **Samuel DeLeon** pleaded guilty to causing stolen property to be transported in interstate commerce. On March 8, 2004, **Monico DeLeon** pleaded guilty to the same charge.

In a scheme that lasted from September 1999 until May 2000, Graves said, **Samuel DeLeon** enlisted the aid of **Monico DeLeon** and others in the theft of cardboard from Batliner Paper. **Monico DeLeon** and others transported trucks containing the stolen paper from Batliner Paper to Eco-Mo Recycling, Graves said, where they were stored by **Samuel DeLeon**. **Samuel DeLeon** then brokered the stolen paper for eventual delivery to a firm in Lawson, Okla.

Graves said the scheme included approximately six shipments per week of 30 bales per shipment of stolen property for a total loss of \$350,000.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)